

Mankanya language

The **Mankanya language** is spoken by approximately 70,000 people in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Gambia primarily belonging to the ethnic group of the same name. It belongs to the Bak branch of the Niger–Congo language family.

The language has status as an official language in Senegal, and an orthography has recently been developed for writing it. Mankanya is known as "Uhula" by the people themselves (the Mankanya people, or "Bahula"). The name 'Mankanya' ('Mancagne' in French) is thought to have been conferred upon the people and their language by colonialists who mistook the name of their chief at the time of colonisation for the name of the people-group itself.

The language contains many loanwords from Kriol. There is also extensive bilingualism in Mandjak, a closely related language which is largely mutually comprehensible, as well as in other minority languages spoken in the area, such as Mandinka and Jola. Finally, Mankanya speakers in Senegal also know French, and those in Gambia know English.

There is a translation of the Christian Bible in the Mankanya language, available via the Holy Bible YouVersion app. It includes a spoken recording (audio-bible).

Writing System

Mankanya uses the Latin alphabet. In Senegal, a decree of 2005 regulated the orthography of Mankanya.^[3]

Mankanya	
Native to	Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and the Gambia
Region	Southwest Senegal coast
Ethnicity	Mankanya
Native speakers	75,000 (2006) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bak–Bijago<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bak proper<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jola–Papel<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manjaku–Papel<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mankanya</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	knf
Glottolog	mank1251 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mank1251) ^[2]

Mankanya Alphabet (Senegal)																											
A	B	C	D	E	Ě	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	Ñ	Ɔ	O	P	R	S	Ş	T	Ɛ	Ƨ	U	W	Y
a	b	c	d	e	ě	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	ñ	ɔ	o	p	r	s	ş	t	ɛ	ɧ	u	w	y

References

1. Mankanya (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/knf/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mankanya" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mank1251). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. http://www.jo.gouv.sn/spip.php?article4794 (http://www.jo.gouv.sn/spip.php?article4794). Missing or empty |title= (help)

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